

Boyce Thompson Arboretum Events

***all new events for April**

Daily Guided Walking Tour of the Main Trail 11:00 AM each day March and April

Can you name the oldest tree or oldest plant in Arizona? How old is a five foot Saguaro...and can you identify a few edible desert plants? Hear the answers and learn about the Arboretum's history and mission on a relaxed, leisurely guided walking tour of the main trail with Arizona State Parks tour guides. Tours depart from the visitor center at 11 am and are included with daily admission \$10 -- free to BTA annual members, and also free if you have an Arizona State Parks pass. Tours depart the visitor center at 11am and are included with \$10 daily admission. Read more

<http://cals.arizona.edu/bta>

April 2- Bird Walk Guided by Cynthia Donald & Pete Moulton (more birdwalk dates April 10, 16)

830 a.m. Resident Northern Cardinals were among dozens of species seen and heard around the gardens this week -- read bird checklist reports and join a walk April 2 guided by Cynthia Donald & Pete Moulton; walks continue April 10 with Kathe Anderson & Anne Leight, then April 16 with Richard Ditch & Charles Babbitt. Recent bird sightings are posted at

<http://ag.arizona.edu/bta/events/birdwalks.html>

April 2: Superstition Master Gardeners Landscaping Workshop: 'Spice Up Your Life'

11am. Superstition Mountain Master Gardeners continue their Winter-Spring once-a-month Saturday seminars. Herbs have been spicing up our lives ever since man threw the first chunk of meat on a fire and are surprisingly easy to grow in the desert. In fact, most like it HOT! Join the Superstition Mountain master gardeners as they share with you how simple it is to add spices to your life and cooking pot. There's no pre-registration required to attend workshops, and no additional fee or enrollment - these are included with daily admission of \$10 at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park - and free to BTA annual members, also free if you have an Arizona State Parks annual pass. For more information about our local Master Gardeners, their classes and volunteer work, call Carol at 602-438-4003 or email:

caparrott21@hotmail.com

April 2-3-4 Guided Wildflower Walks (repeat each Saturday, Sunday & Monday in April)

10 am. Poppies, primrose and penstemon can be seen during March and April, the peak months for Spring wildflower color at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park - where guided walks at One O'Clock on Saturday, Sunday and Monday are a chance to learn to ID a variety of wildflowers and plants in the gardens. Spring flower walks depart from the visitor center and are included with daily admission \$10 -- free to BTA annual members, and also free if you have an Arizona State Parks pass. read more

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April 3: Bird House Workshop & Kids' Bird Walk

8:30 a.m. It's nearly spring, birds will be building nests and you can add avian architecture that will help them out! Arizona State Parks Volunteer Ruby Kauffman and her avid birding family lead a bird-house-building workshop for kids, followed by a guided bird walk that's especially for children. Sign-up in advance and both the workshop and the walk are free (FREE!) for children ages 6-15 and includes admission, lumber, tools and instruction, but pre-registration by email is required. The bird houses are sturdy, solid construction homes that will last for years outdoors. The workshop begins promptly at 8:30am. Register by email to: lpacheco@ag.arizona.edu (subject line: "Bird House Workshop") and please include the number of children ages 6-15 you wish to register. Non-member adults are responsible for their own \$10 admission. Read more

<http://cals.arizona.edu/bta>

April 3 : Girl Scout Badge Workshop (more Girl Scout workshops April 23; May 1, 7, 14 and 28)

9:00 am. \$10 per scout, \$10 per adult chaperone - call 520.689.2723 to pre-register and prepay. Girl Scout badge workshops continue with the 'Bugs' badge activity for Brownies on April 3, and then 'Gardener' for Juniors April 23; 'Animal Habitats' for

Juniors May 1, 'Senses' for Brownies May 7, 'Wood Worker' for Cadettes May 14 and the 'Arizona' patch for Brownies May 21. Read more

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April 3: Arboretum History Walk

10 a.m. You may have walked the trails a dozen times and never crossed paths with the Galapagos Tortoise pens. Take a moment to scan the horizon above Picket Post Mountain, can you imagine cavalry soldiers camped in this region in the late 1800s? Learn about the life and times of Colonel William Boyce Thompson and his Arboretum on a walking tour guided by Phoenix historian Sylvia Lee on the first Sunday each month this Fall. Walks typically last about 90-minutes, departing at 10am from the Visitor Center breezeway. Correspond with Sylvia, or read more about BTA History

<http://ag.arizona.edu/bta/history.html>

April 6 – Beginners' Gourd Art Class

9 a.m. Basic gourd art includes gourd cleaning and preparation, choosing and drawing a design, wood-burning and applying color. A class for beginners and repeat students wanting to improve their skills. Enrollment of \$45 includes a cleaned gourd and art supplies to work with during the class; most students leave with a completed project. Have a credit card ready and call 520-689-2723 during daytime business hours to enroll and prepay. Read more

<http://cals.arizona.edu/bta>

April 9: Wine Bottle Wind Chimes Craft Class

9:00 am. \$30-\$40; Have a credit card ready and call 520-689-2723 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Learn to cut recycled wine bottles to use as the base for a wind chime. Cut bottles will be provided, as well as beads, chain and all materials. Students are encouraged to "BYO" needle-nose pliers and wire cutters if they have them. Read more

<http://cals.arizona.edu/bta>

April 9: Live Music – Bluegrass Jam With Billy Parker & Ron Rutowski

1:00 pm. Pack a picnic, invite friends & kick back for an hour or two of high energy acoustic bluegrass during an informal jam session with Billy Parker (mandolin) and Ron Rutowski (fiddle, banjo) and friends. Music's included with daily admission \$10 -- free to BTA annual members, and also free if you have an Arizona State Parks pass. Want a sneak preview?

Check out this short clip of Billy & Ron jamming at a backyard December gig in Tempe:

<https://www.facebook.com/amanda.moors.9/videos/vb.1044117404/10206582197247347/?type=3&permPage=1>

April 9-10-11 Guided Wildflower Walks (repeat each Saturday, Sunday & Monday in April)

10:00 am. Poppies, primrose and penstemon can be seen during March and April, the peak months for Spring wildflower color at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park - where guided walks at One O'Clock on Saturday, Sunday and Monday are a chance to learn to ID a variety of wildflowers and plants in the gardens. Spring flower walks depart from the visitor center and are included with daily admission \$10 -- free to BTA annual members, and also free if you have an Arizona State Parks pass. read more

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April 9 - Edible & Medicinal Desert Plants Walk with Kathy & Tom McDonald (and with David Morris April 24)

1:30 p.m. Explore the Curandero Trail on a one-hour Saturday walk guided by authors and desert plants enthusiasts Kathy & Tom McDonald, sharing anecdotes about prickly pear cacti, ratany, agaves, jojobas -- and explaining ways native plants fed, healed and clothed Sonoran desert peoples for more than 1,000 years. Ethno-botanist and Choctaw Tribal Nation member David Morris returns April 24 to guide this month's '4th Sunday' walk. ** Please note: this tour explores the Curandero Trail, which has steep sections that are not suitable for visitors who use wheelchairs or walkers. Read more

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April 10- Bird Walk Guided by Kathe Anderson & Anne Leight (birdwalk guide April 16 is Richard Ditch)

830 a.m. Resident Northern Cardinals were among dozens of species seen and heard around the gardens this week -- Read bird checklist reports and join us for a walk April 10 guided by Kathe Anderson & Anne Leight, then April 16 with Richard Ditch. Recent bird sightings are posted at

<http://ag.arizona.edu/bta/events/birdwalks.html>

April 16- Bird Walk Guided by Richard Ditch & Charles Babbitt

830 a.m. Resident Northern Cardinals were among dozens of species seen and heard around the gardens this week -- read bird checklist reports and join us for a walk guided by Phoenix photographer Richard Ditch, and also Charles Babbitt. Check out Richard's great portraits of birds posted at his enthralling website where you'll find provocative articles ranging from informative to humorous - plus galleries of 'birder vanity plates' (definitely worth a look); <http://www.richditch.com/page88/page88.html>

Recent Arboretum bird sightings are posted at

<http://ag.arizona.edu/bta/events/birdwalks.html>

April 16 - Gourd Rain Sticks Craft Class

9 a.m. Create the sound of rain with a gourd, chicken wire and rice! \$55 enrollment includes a cleaned, prepared gourd and materials needed during the workshop. Have a credit card ready and call 520-689-2723 during daytime business hours to enroll and prepay.

Read more

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April 16-17-18 Guided Wildflower Walks (repeat each Saturday, Sunday & Monday in April)

10:00 am. Poppies, primrose and penstemon can be seen during March and April, the peak months for Spring wildflower color at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park - where guided walks at One O'Clock on Saturday, Sunday and Monday are a chance to learn to ID a variety of wildflowers and plants in the gardens. Spring flower walks depart from the visitor center and are included with daily admission \$10 -- free to BTA annual members, and also free if you have an Arizona State Parks pass. read more

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April 16 - Plants of the Bible Land Guided Walk (tours move to early morning hours in May-June)

1:30 p.m. The Sinai Desert lies roughly at the same latitude as our own Sonoran Desert; many of the same plants common in the Middle East thrive in our Arizona climate, and can be seen here at Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Arboretum volunteer tourguide Dave Oberpriller leads this tour to learn about palms, pomegranates, figs, olives, and other plants of the Bible Land. Wear comfortable walking shoes and a hat, bring sunscreen and water bottle. The tour, conducted at a leisurely pace, lasts about 90 minutes and proceeds along wheelchair-accessible paths. Check out a few Plants of the Bible Lands on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BTA.POTBL>

Using references in ancient texts, guides will describe how people of the Bible Land used plants as food, medicine, and shelter in ways similar to how native peoples of Southern Arizona continue to do so in modern times.

Read a more complete description of our Plants of the Bible Land Guided Tour
<http://ag.arizona.edu/bta/events/bibleplants.html>

April 17 - Tree Tour with Certified Arborist Jeff Payne (final 1:30 walk of the Spring season)

1:30 p.m. Just what is an Arboretum? BTA staffer and Certified Arborist Jeff Payne leads this walk where visitors learn the answer to that often-posed question during a relaxed and leisurely guided tour through the forested areas of the Arboretum. Join Jeff for a chance to learn about the Arboretum's collection of oak and olive trees, native hackberry, mesquite and many more; learn more about Jeff and trees in this interview

<http://boycethompson.blogspot.com/2014/06/five-questions-for-tree-tour-leader-and.html>

April 23 : Girl Scout Badge Workshop (more Girl Scout workshops May 1, 7, 14 and 28)

9:00 am. \$10 per scout, \$10 per adult chaperone - call 520.689.2723 to pre-register and prepay. Girl Scout badge workshops continue with the 'Bugs' badge activity for Brownies on April 3, and then 'Gardener' for Juniors April 23; 'Animal Habitats' for Juniors May 1, 'Senses' for Brownies May 7, 'Wood Worker' for Cadettes May 14 and the 'Arizona' patch for Brownies May 21. Read more

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April 23 - Guided Butterfly Walk with ASU Professor Ron Rutowski & Laura Miller (next is May 28)

9:30 a.m. ASU Professor Ron Rutowski and Laura Miller guide visitors to see, photograph and learn about colorful species ranging from Empress Leilia to Queen, Spring Azure and more. This relaxed and slow-moving walk that explores our Hummingbird-Butterfly Garden, Demonstration Garden and Children's Garden collections. Marceline VandeWater leads the walk May 28 at 9:00 am, and Ron Rutowski and Laura Miller team-up again to guide the walk at 8:30am June 25. Start time remains 8:30 a.m. July 23 with Marceline VandeWater as guide, and also 8:30am on August 27 with Adriane Grimaldi ; she's also our guide September 24 when the start time moves to 9:00 am.

April 23 - Geology Walking Tour with Scott McFadden (this tour moves to early morning hours in May-June)

1:30 p.m. Learn about rocks and volcanic formations along our main trail on a guided tour guided by professional geologist Scott McFadden. BTA's website has links to a detailed interview with the Geology Tour guide; these walks compress almost two billion years of geologic history into just over one educational hour. Learn about Pinal schist, the volcanic origins of Picket Post Mountain and the Apache Leap tuff.

April 24 - Edible & Medicinal Desert Plants Walk with Dave Morris

1:30 p.m. Explore the Curandero Trail on a one-hour Saturday walk guided by Ethno-botanist and Choctaw Tribal Nation member David Morris, sharing anecdotes about prickly pear cacti, ratany, agaves, jojobas -- and explaining ways native plants fed, healed and clothed Sonoran desert peoples for more than 1,000 years. ** Please note: this tour explores the Curandero Trail, which has steep sections that are not suitable for visitors who use wheelchairs or walkers. Read more

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May 1 : Girl Scout Badge Workshop (more Girl Scout workshops May 7, 14 and 28)

9:00 am. \$10 per scout, \$10 per adult chaperone - call 520.689.2723 to pre-register and prepay. Girl Scout badge workshops continue with 'Animal Habitats' badge activity for Juniors May 1, 'Senses' for Brownies May 7, 'Wood Worker' for Cadettes May 14 and the 'Arizona' patch for Brownies May 21. Read more

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Dragonfly Walks with Justin Jones & Roger Racut May 7 (also June 4 & July 2)

8:30 a.m. Dragonfly enthusiasts Justin Jones and Roger Racut guide our once-a-month odonate excursion -- an interpreted walking tour to Ayer Lake and garden water features -- a chance to learn about these beautiful, fascinating insect predators. Bring your camera because Pierre safely nets a few dragonflies for visitors to view and photograph close-up, before releasing the insects unharmed.

Check out colorful photos and read more about Flame Skimmers, Blue Dashers and Mexican Amberwings at this excellent website launched by ASU Professor Pierre Deviche:

<http://azdragonfly.net>

May 7 : Girl Scout Badge Workshop (more Girl Scout workshops May 14 and 28)

9:00 am. \$10 per scout, \$10 per adult chaperone - call 520.689.2723 to pre-register and prepay. Girl Scout badge workshops continue with the 'Senses' activity for Brownies May 7, then 'Wood Worker' for Cadettes May 14 and the 'Arizona' patch for Brownies May 21. Read more

<http://cals.arizona.edu/bta>

May 28 - Guided Butterfly Walk with ASU Professor Marceline VandeWater (next is June 25)

9:00 a.m. Marceline VandeWater guides visitors to see, photograph and learn about colorful species ranging from Empress Leilia to Queen, Spring Azure and more. This relaxed and slow-moving walk that explores our Hummingbird-Butterfly Garden, Demonstration Garden and Children's Garden collections. ASU Professor Ron Rutowski and Laura Miller team-up again to guide the walk at 8:30am June 25. Start time remains 8:30 a.m. July 23 with Marceline VandeWater as guide, and also 8:30am on August 27 with Adriane Grimaldi ; she's also our guide September 24 when the start time moves to 9:00 am.